

**REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action dated June 5, 2003. Non-elected claim 7 has been canceled, without prejudice in view of the Restriction Requirement. New claims 8-11 have been added. Thus, claims 1-6 and 8-11 are now pending.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge and indicate consideration of the IDS filed September 19, 2000 (applicant has not yet received an initialed PTO-1449 corresponding to the same). In particular, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide the undersigned with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 corresponding to the IDS filed September 19, 2000.

Applicant has amended the drawings as requested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Kondo (US 5,726,728). This Section 102(b) rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires that "the wall structures surround and define regions having a shape of a polygon having dulled corners as viewed from above." In other words, claim 1 requires that an inner perimeter portion of the wall structure is in the shape of the polygon having dulled corners as viewed from above. For example, see Fig. 1B of the instant application which illustrates that certain inner perimeter portions of the wall structure 16 are generally in the shape of a polygon and have dulled corners as viewed from above. This claimed structure is advantageous, for example, for reasons discussed on page 27 of the instant application.

Kondo fails to disclose or suggest the aforesaid aspect of claim 1. Kondo's Fig. 13B illustrates the outer perimeter of a *liquid crystal* (LC) region – not an inner perimeter portion of a wall. The LC regions 7 in the figures of Kondo are *not* the same shape as the inner perimeters of wall 8. This is made clear in Fig. 24 of Kondo, for example, which illustrates that the shape of the LC region 7 (with rounded corners) is *different* than the perfectly square shape of the inner perimeters of walls 8. In other words, Figs. 24, 25, 26, 27 and 29 of Kondo make very clear that the inner perimeter portions of the walls 8 are perfectly square (defining right angles) and do not have dulled corners. The fact that the LC regions 7 have rounded corners is irrelevant and unrelated to the invention of claim 1 – instead, the invention of claim 1 relates to the shape of inner wall perimeters and not the shape of LC regions. Accordingly, Kondo cannot possibly anticipate the invention of claim 1.

Claim 9 requires that "the wall structure surrounds a region having a shape of a polygon having dulled corners as viewed from above, so that an interior perimeter of a portion of the wall structure is in the shape of the polygon having dulled corners as viewed from above." Again, Kondo fails to disclose or suggest this aspect of claim 9.

With respect to the Section 103 rejections of claims 3-4, since Kondo does not disclose the problem to be solved in these claims, there is found no motivation for defining a radius of curvature R recited in claims 3 and 4. Specifically, due to the Kondo polymeric walls 8 having right-angle corners, the alignment direction of the liquid crystal molecules with respect to the surface of polymer walls is irregular, and it may cause a

variation in the viewing angle characteristic of the liquid crystal display device and result in rough display (see page 5, line 19 to page 6, line 5 of the specification). Especially, roughness appears dominantly near the substrate. Kondo fails to disclose at least the aforementioned problem, and there is clearly no suggestion or motivation in the art for the alleged modification under Section 103.

With respect to claim 5, the invention recited therein has an example advantage that by using a negative photosensitive resin, the shape of the corners can be controlled more easily than using a positive photosensitive resin (see page 22, lines 5-9 of the specification). The cited art, including the APA, does not disclose or suggest this advantage. Thus, again there is not suggestion in the cited art for the alleged modification. Moreover, any prima facie case of obviousness is clearly rebutted by the unexpected results associated with this claimed aspect of the invention recited in claim 5.

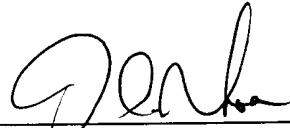
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

KISHIMOTO  
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Respectfully submitted,

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